

Using the DSRC MultiPurpose Room (GC-402) Audio/Visual Equipment

A Manual for the Uninitiated...

To start with, a few general comments and rules (in case this is all you ever read):

- **All equipment and documents in the MPR (GC402) and the MPR Booth (GC401) MUST stay there! Please do not borrow a manual to peruse, or a machine for a presentation elsewhere. Remember, if a cable disappears, then, no one can use the system. If the AMX controller gets lost, NOTHING WORKS!** (Did we mention it costs \$3000?)
- **All control functions can be done via the AMX hand controller. NEVER CHANGE PRESETS ON THE CONTROLLER OR ON ANY SUBSYSTEM (projector, lights, VCR, etc.) If you have some special need, see one of the technical contacts listed below.**
- Manuals for the machinery are in the file cabinet in the Booth. Read first, shoot later.
- The audio volume is set to near-inaudibility (indicated -40 db on the Denon controller) at startup, to prevent loud surprises. A normal play level is about -20 to -15 on the controller. Unfortunately, the numeric level is displayed only on the Denon panel, not on-screen and can be set by the AMX or the big volume knob on the Denon.
- After "not turning on the master power", among the most common problems are incompatible computer video screen resolutions and sweep rates. For the ceiling-mounted projector these limits are: resolution up to **1024x768 (XGA)**; frame rates from 50-100 Hz. Synchronization is automatic. Workstations with video set to 1600x1200 @ 90 Hz will NOT project! Remember to turn on the external video port on laptops. (Hint: If the projector is turned on after the PC was connected, and if there is no sync, but everything was set within specified values, use the AMX controller to switch the video input from the selected PC port to a VCR, then back to PC. *Voilà!*)
- **Technical Help:**
 - Peter Sloss, x6119 (1B126) peter.w.sloss@noaa.gov
 - Terri Maraia, x6548 (GC101) Teresa.Maraia@noaa.gov

Let There be Lights!

There are 4 preset lighting modes selectable from the wall switches near the doors to the MPR, plus "All ON" and "All OFF". Numbered 1 to 4, they are progressively dimmer, with #4 best suited to applications involving the ceiling-mounted projector. There are 6 other presets selectable through the **AMX controller** only, accessed via the lightbulb icon. Most lighting functions take a moment to activate -- be patient before hitting the button again.

What's the AMX?

The AMX controller is a hand-held radio remote control unit for most of the lighting and audio-visual functions of the MPR. By touching icons on the AMX screen, you can select devices to play various audio and video materials.

Turning On

The Master Power controller (see Pg. 3) must be on and in Power Up mode. Be sure the Main Power is on and throw the Power Up switch if needed. Touch the AMX screen to activate the system; choose whether you will be using the A/V projector before selecting an input source.

Plugging in

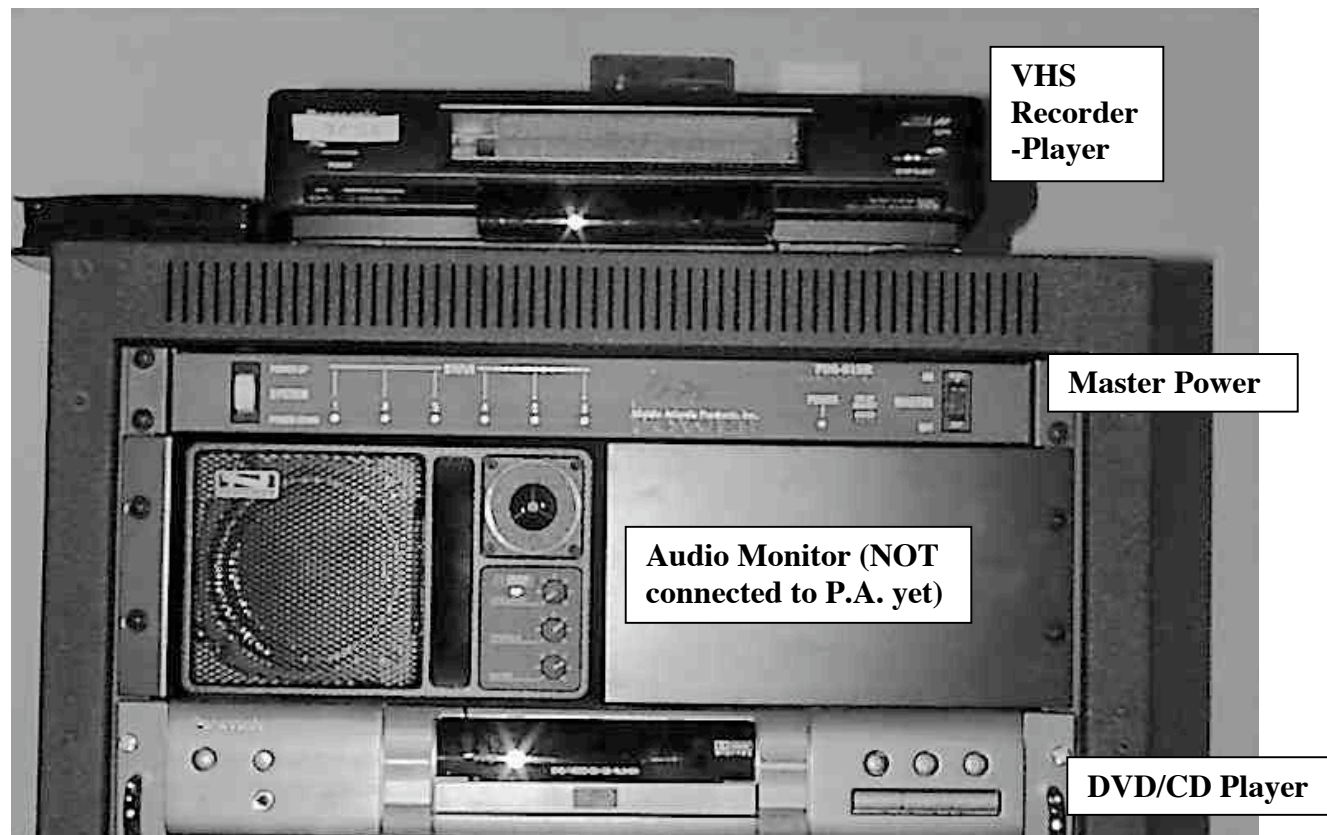
Video and audio interface plates are provided in the booth and at the front lip of the stage for external devices such as computers (did you read the paragraph above about sweep rates and resolutions???), VCRs, or other NTSC and audio sources. Computer input must be via a 9-pin VGA connector cable (available in the booth); most types of sources (PC, Mac, workstation, laptop) are supported. Touch the "PC Front" icon to select a computer input from that location. Be sure the projector was selected and powered up first, or it won't recognize the signal when the port is selected. After your computer image is on the screen, use the selector button and adjustment knobs on the interface input plate to center the image if necessary. Microphones may be connected to the numbered microphone input plugs around the room. Each input has a corresponding level control on the PA mixer; most levels are preset to proper levels. Six of the eight ceiling-mounted PA speakers were upgraded in October, 1999 for better intelligibility.

Good Bye, Cruel World!

When all system use is completed, touch the "More" icon on the AMX and touch "System Off". If you know the system won't be needed, like over a weekend, then press Power Down on the Master Power panel.

Equipment in the main rack on the Projection Booth (GC401)

Top of the Rack:



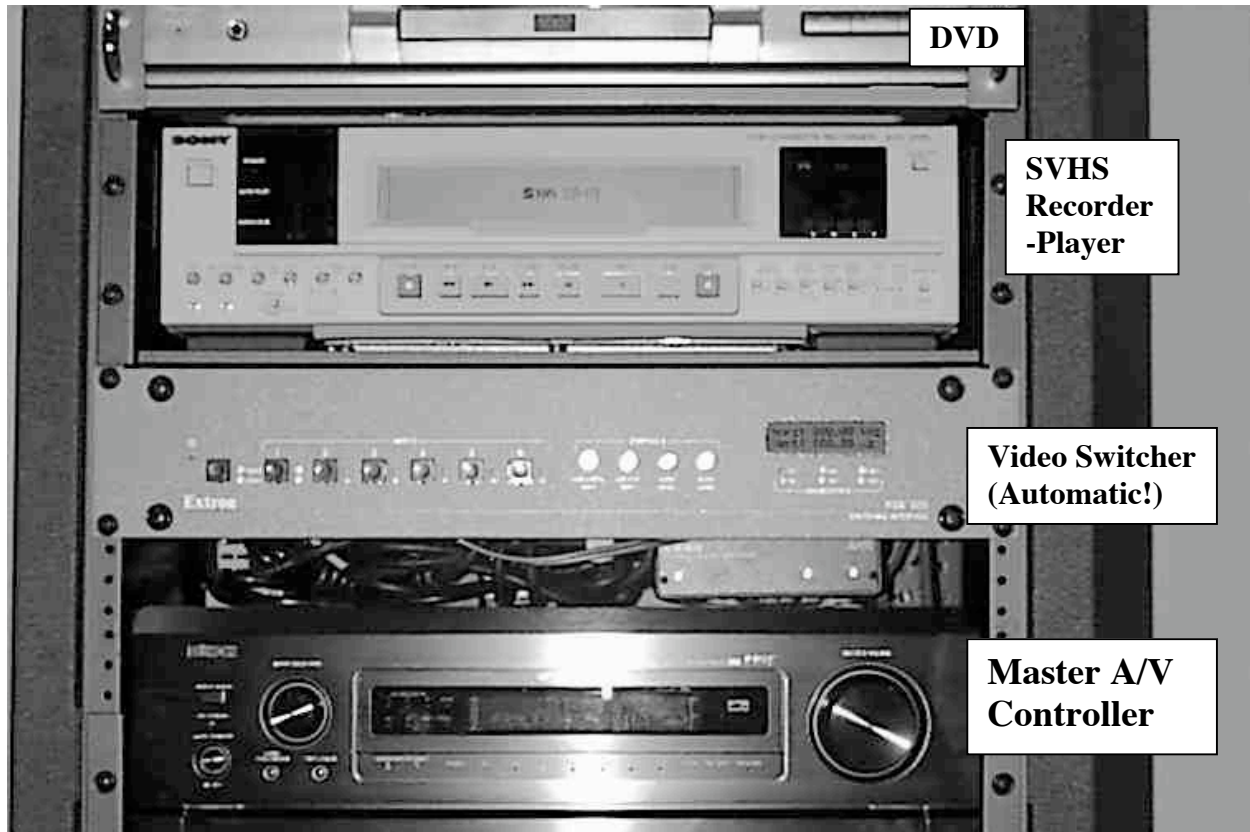
The **VHS Recorder-Player** is a Panasonic VHS machine with Monophonic sound, and is intended mostly as a backup for the main (Sony) professional SVHS deck below it. This machine is also needed to play **LP** or **EP (or SLP)** tapes; the Sony unit below is for SP only. Record/Play functions are controlled through the AMX master controller. *See pg. 6 for tape-to-tape dubbing options.*

The **Master Power** Controller turns everything else on or off. The only switch that needs to be touched is the Power Up/Down switch at the left-hand end of the unit. Turn it ON and wait a few seconds before starting to activate systems. **DO NOT USE THE INDIVIDUAL POWER SWITCHES ON OTHER EQUIPMENT.** Power Down shuts all systems off. Please use "System Off" on the AMX before using Power Down.

The **Audio Monitor** speaker allows someone in the booth to hear what is playing over the main A/V system. Public Address audio is not currently (10/99) connected here.

The **DVD/CD Player** plays prerecorded digital video and audio program materials through the main A/V system. All critical control functions are available via the DVD control screen on the AMX unit.

Middle of the Rack:



The Sony SVHS Recorder records and plays SVHS video cassettes or normal VHS cassettes, but is **SP speed only**. This machine has HiFi stereo sound, including Dolby® ProLogic Surround decoding via the Denon amplifier.

The Extron **Video Switcher** is controlled from the AMX unit and should not be set manually.

The Denon AVR-5700 **Master A/V Controller** is the heart of the audio-video system. Its inputs are switched automatically when a source is selected on the AMX controller. It powers 5 high-fidelity speakers with 140 watts each. Three front-channel (L-center-R) speakers are mounted in the wall of the MPR stage; the two rear speakers are in the ceiling above the booth. In deference to the neighbors, there is no subwoofer. Audio volume is controlled from the AMX volume slider control, or from the booth by the big volume knob. Video tapes are played in 5-channel Dolby® surround stereo*; DVDs are played in 5-channel Dolby®-5.1 Digital or -ProLogic sound depending on the DVD's recorded audio mode. DTS sound is not available on this machine; DTS-encoded DVDs will still play in Dolby®-5.1 Digital mode. Different audio stereo and surround-sound modes can be selected from the "More" button* on the AMX controller if needed. **The public address system (microphones) does NOT use this system.** The PA audio is fed to the #2 Panasonic VHS recorder, along with signal from the Panasonic video camera.

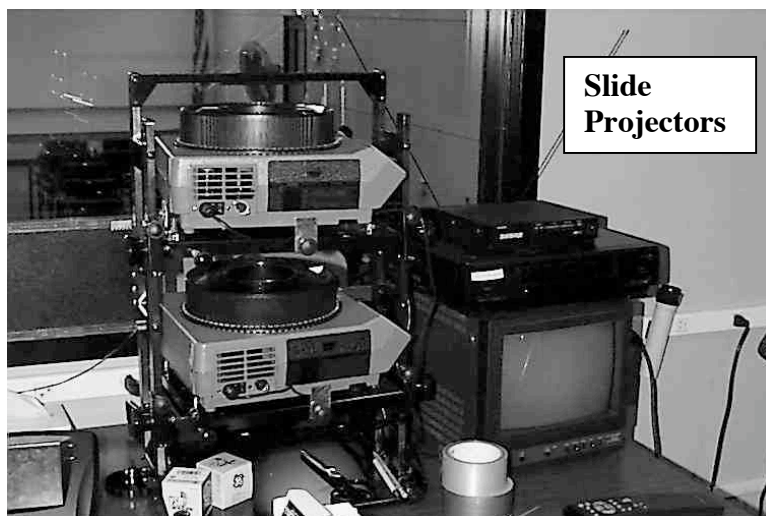
* "5-channel stereo" should be selected for all monophonic (one-audio channel) sources to allow the sound to come from all 5 main speakers instead of only the front-center, which is all that will play if "surround" has been selected for a monophonic source.

Bottom of the Rack:

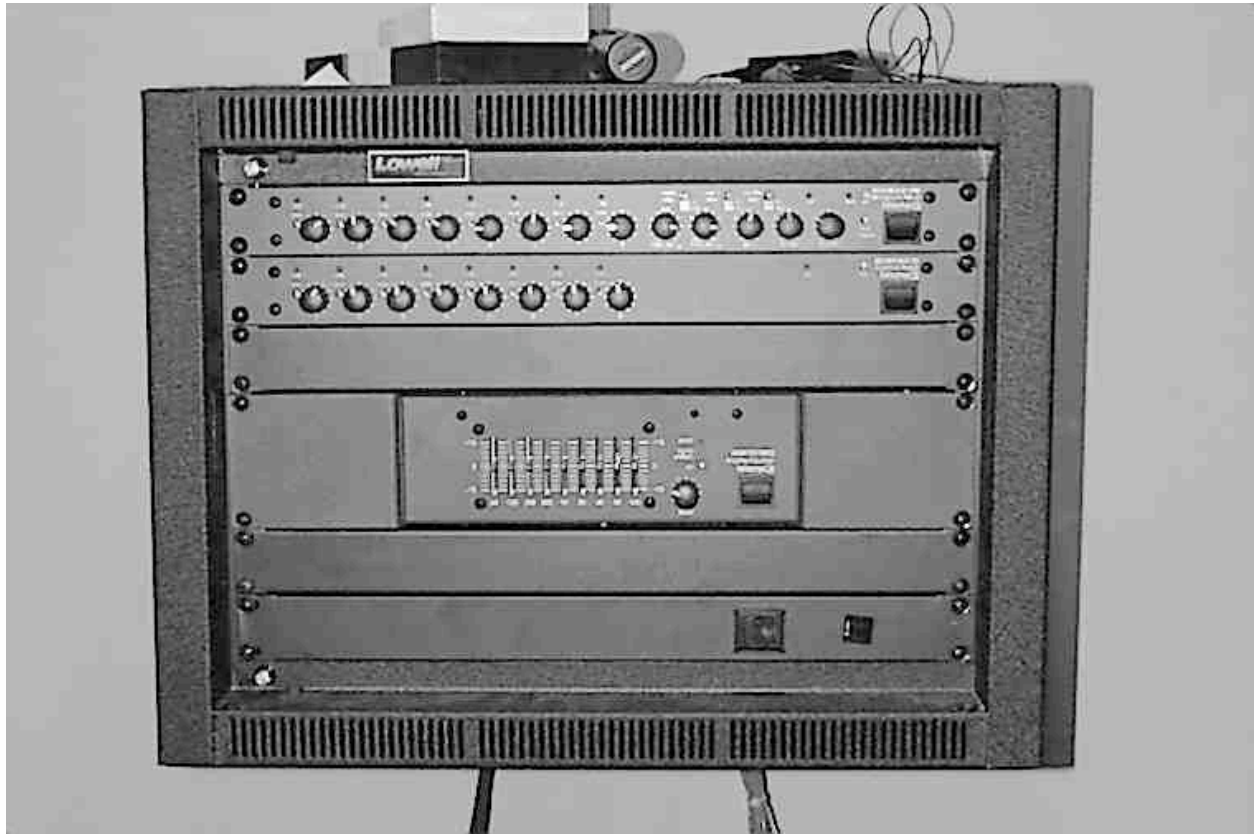


The **Audio Cassette Recorder/Player** can record the audio from the Denon A/V amplifier, but NOT the PA system. Standard cassettes can be recorded or played from either drive.

There are 2 Carousel-type **slide projectors** in the MPR Booth. They are operated through the AMX controller, including power.



The PA Mixer/Amplifier and Video Camera:



The **PA Mixer/Amplifier** controls the 16 microphone inputs in the MPR walls, stage, and ceiling. It is completely independent from the remote-controlled A/V system and can be used separately without affecting the functioning of the other system. All controls are manual, without monitoring capability in the booth. We are working to rectify this deficiency. Terri Maraia is the preferred point of contact for questions about microphones and other PA issues. **Please do not change the audio levels or notch filters on the PA amplifier. Proper microphone position is essential – near the speaker’s mouth, not his/her navel.**

NEW 7/7/00: One-Button Tape-to-tape dubbing! Tapes played on the #1 Panasonic VCR (SP or SLP) can be dubbed directly to VHS or SVHS tape on the Sony SVHS deck by touching the "Rec to Sony" button on the Panasonic VCR screen on the AMX controller. When this option is selected, the Sony will start recording immediately (be sure there is a recordable tape in the Sony). NO OTHER CONTROLS NEED TO BE SET.

New in 2003: DirecTV® satellite services (including CNN, Weather, major networks) is now available in the MPR. Select the “AV Rear” input to feed signal to the projector and audio systems.